



SCENE FROM "THE REIGNING FAVORITE."

STRAND THEATRE.

AN adaptation from the French, of M. Scribe's *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, by Mr. Oxenford, (who has christened his version *The Reigning Favorite*), has been produced at this Theatre, with the most complete success. The plot is founded upon the love adventures of *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, a favourite performer at the Comedie Francaise, who is beloved by the *Count de Saxe*. The actress, however, has a powerful rival in the person of the *Princess de Bouillon*, the heartless wife of a heartless Prince. These ladies are kept in ignorance of each other's passion, till an accident reveals it to them. The *Count de Saxe* being under important obligations to the *Princess* agrees to meet her in the house of her husband's mistress, *Mademoiselle Duclos*. The *Prince* gets scent of this appointment, under the impression that the *Count* is paying his attentions to his own false favourite, whom he is now intent upon exposing and abandoning. For this purpose, he invites the whole of the company of the Comedie Francaise to a supper to be given

in this very house, and amongst the visitors, *Adrienne* included. Here she meets with, and favours the escape of, her rival, in the dark, without being able to recognize her. The real action of the drama now begins. The actress is invited to the hotel of the *Princess* to amuse a party by theatrical recitation. Here, the rivals become known to each other; and *Adrienne*, selecting an appropriate passage from Racine's tragedy of "Phedre," by her forcible and impassioned delivery, exposes the noble lady's false conduct to her guests. This is one of the greatest points of the drama. The *Princess* ultimately becomes revenged upon *Adrienne*, by sending her a poisoned bouquet, which possesses the power of producing delirium and death in gradual yet certain advances. While in this painful state, *Adrienne* recites, with appalling effect, some passages from the "Psyche" of Pierre Corneille, which refer to her own love and jealousy. Under the agonies of this secret poison, she expires in the arms of her lover, and at the feet of her old and faithful friend, *Michonnet*.

The character of *Adrienne* by Mrs. Stirling was truth

and nature to the life. In the scene where she believes her lover "upon his honour," she gave utterance to the short answer, "I will," with a truly thrilling effect—it was a point that developed true genius in the actress, and the undoubting confidence of love in the woman. Her death in the last scene was exquisitely touching—too much so, we thought, to be witnessed without leaving a painful recollection of the denouement upon the mind of the spectator. Mr. Leigh Murray was the *Count de Saxe*, and Mrs. Murray as the vindictive and intriguing *Princess* gave the character all the heartlessness and treachery which it required to make it wholly hateful. The part of *Michonnet*, an old prompter, was beautifully represented by Mr. Farren, who seemed to struggle between the conflicting passions of a subdued love, and a fatherly friendship for *Adrienne*; and nothing could be finer or more true to nature, than the outburst of his heart's emotions when he beheld his youthful favorite dead at his feet.

The getting-up of the piece, and the accurate costumes, deserve the highest praise.

Dramatic Gossip.

Three new operas are spoken of as about to be produced at the Princess's Theatre. *The Bleeding Nun*, by Mr. C. Loder; *The King of Hearts*, by Mr. Macfarren; and *Kenilworth*, by Signor Schira. Miss Saunders of the Marylebone is also engaged at this Theatre.—A travelling English Opera Company, with Mr. S. Reeves, Mr. Whitworth, Miss Lucombe, and several others, is about to make

a provincial tour.—Mrs. Orger, the well-known actress, died at Brighton, on the 2nd instant; she was a recipient of the Drury Lane Fund to the extent of £120. a year.—On Saturday, the 6th inst. Mr. Macready took his farewell at the Manchester Theatre, and delivered a well-written address.—Harley has just declined accepting an engagement at Drury Lane.—An accident occurred at the Maclefield Theatre a few nights ago, during the performance of the *Founding of the Forest*. Mr. Achraman accidentally stabbed Mr. Calhaem in the cheek with a dagger; this mishap, together with the sudden illness of another actor, caused the immediate conclusion of the performance.—Madame Schröder, the finest tragedian of Germany, and mother of Madame Schröder Devrient, died lately in Saxony, at the great age of 84.—Julien's Concerts commence at

Drury Lane on the 2nd of Nov.—£15,000 is asked for the Surrey Zoological Gardens, by Mr. Tyler.—Miss Cushman is performing at the Broadway, New York, where she has just commenced an engagement; from thence she proceeds to Philadelphia, and afterwards to Boston.—Mrs. Glover is starting it at Manchester.—Mr. G. Herbert Rodwell is to be the Musical Director at Drury Lane, at Christmas.—The Distin Family have just returned to England, from a successful tour through the United States and Canada.